

## Fun in the Sun Kicks Off Fourth

By KELLY CLARK

The town of Duxbury took to the sand on Saturday for the kick-off event of the Fourth of July celebration. There was plenty of activity on the beach as various performers kept the party alive from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

To start things off, magician Steve Brenner exhibited his balloon animal-making talents for a long line of eager children, creating everything from crazy hats to cats. He followed his balloon animals



Julianne McLaughlin and son Jack dance together to the music of Entrain.

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with a magic show and he was not alone in his act. Brenner brought along a dove named Tweety, a hedgehog named Spike, a warthog named Miss Sue-E and a rabbit named Jack to assist him in his tricks.

Following the magic show, kids lined up to participate in the crazy hat contest, judged by Katy Gaenicke, Tammy Kirk and Jeff Goldman of the Fourth of July Committee. While there were many worthy entries, the judges picked two winners from each age group to receive gift certificates to Farfar's Danish Ice Cream Shop.

In the age 5 and under category, Kelsey Dewolf won for most patriotic hat and



Kids line up to compete in the crazy hat contest.

Wuennemann performed three songs, including Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide," Dolly Parton's "Jolene" and "Traveling Soldier" by the Dixie Chicks. In addition to Wuennemann's performance, Idol finalist

The headliner, Martha's Vineyard based band Entrain, played for three hours to a dancing crowd, and at 9 p.m., flocks of people herded to the south end of the beach in anticipation of the bonfire. Roger Ladd, who was lighting the bonfire, explained that the fire's location is determined by the piping plovers on the beach. It didn't take long for the fire to catch and the wooden structure was ablaze in no time. The crowds of people behind the caution tape cheered at the sight.

Fourth of July Committee Co-Chairwoman Janet Ritch said she was very pleased with the turnout and level of energy at the event. "It's just such a wonderful family event," she said.

Ritch said the weather was a concern leading into Saturday and the committee had hoped for sun. "We were completely sweating it out for a few days," she said. The sun did shine and Ritch said the event was a great way to start Fourth of July 2006.



Duxbury Idol Sarah Wuennemann sings "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac for friends and families.

Lisse Conklin won for most original hat. In the age 6 to 7 category, Tyler Kelly won for most patriotic with his towering hat representing the first lighthouse on the moon. Nikki Boudrieau won for most original and showed off her Beanie Baby-adorned hat. In the age 8 to 9 category, Ian Brown won for most patriotic and Joey Kelly won for most original as he wore a hat shaped like a trash can that read, "Please clean the beach." Kelly's hat hits close to home as he said he stepped on something on the beach the day before and "sliced my foot open," landing him in crutches.

In a showcase of Duxbury's young talent, Duxbury Idol winner Sarah

Abbe Schnibbe performed two songs a cappella, including "Free Bird" by Lynard Skynard. After their performances, emcee Brian Hill said, "It's amazing how much talent Duxbury has."



The immense bonfire burns bright and lights up the beach to kick off Fourth of July 2006.